



QUARTERLY

THE MILWAUKEE JUSTICE CENTER

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THE MILWAUKEE JUSTICE CENTER
Milwaukee County Courthouse
901 North 9th Street, Rm. G9
Milwaukee, WI 53233

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What's New, Winter 2014

By: Dawn R. Caldart

Please join us on June 18, 2014 for the 4th Annual MJC 5k Run for Justice. We've added a one-mile run for kids this year so bring the entire family. Not a runner, no worries, we have you covered. You can walk the one mile course.

The race begins at 7:00PM in Veteran's Park on the Lakefront. After the run/walk, join us for music, refreshments and great raffle prizes. Register today at the [MJC5K Run for Justice website](http://MJC5K.RunforJustice.website). (milwaukee.gov/

MJC/MJC5K.htm).

All proceeds from the event support the programs and services of the Milwaukee Justice Center. Interested in being an event sponsor? Check out the [sponsorship packet](#).

Interested in volunteering? [Contact us here](#).

See you at the start line! ●



Atty. Dawn Caldart
MJC Executive Director

Demolition of MJC Space Complete, Build-Out of G9 Underway

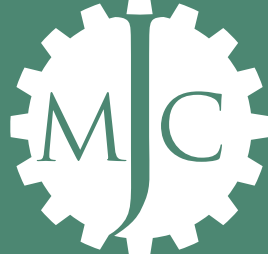
By: Justin A. Metzger

Delays and concrete and asbestos, oh my! The Milwaukee Justice Center redevelopment project has finally completed the bulk of the demolition work, and more *constructive* endeavors are underway.

The finished space will have about 40% of its footprint consumed by the MJC, another approximate 40% consumed by a new, larger Legal Resource Center, and the remaining 20% going to a new Clerk of Circuit Court Records Center.

With the Clerk's efforts to digitize court records over the past year, floorspace once consumed by file stacks will now be dedicated to serving litigants, and new classroom space. ●





Odd Holidays, Fewer Clients in Q4 for MJC

By: Justin A. Metzger

An unusual Wednesday Christmas, and an extremely-rare mash-up of Thanksgiving and Chanukkah, caused a slight decrease in capacity to end the year at the Milwaukee Justice Center. This led to another, small, decline in visits in the fourth quarter of Calendar 2013.

The unusual holiday events, combined with the fire in early July, led to an overall year-over-year decrease in clients seen in the year, though by only 5.2 percent. Including 2013, MJC clinics have seen an average 12.2 percent increase in visits, both for the year, and for the fourth quarter of each year.

MJC Says “¡Bienvenidos!” to MU Spanish-Speaking Service Learners

By: Mary Ferwerda

For the Spring semester of 2014, the Milwaukee Justice Center is excited to partner with Marquette University as a new service-learning site for the undergraduate Service Learning program. Students enrolled in Dr. Julia Paulk's “Intro to Spanish for the Business Professions” are enhancing their education with practical experiences translating in the Family Law Self-Help and the Brief Legal Advice clinics.

Students attended a one hour Orientation to the Milwaukee Justice Center and its services prior to beginning their scheduled shifts. Approximately 18 students are attending a 2-3 hour shift once per week, starting the first week of February through the last week of April.

Service Learning is a component of some



academic courses that offers students an opportunity to perform several hours of community service in a setting that relates to the focused topic and coursework for that class. This combination of academic study and community service enriches students' learning,

personal growth, and civic responsibility.

Started in 1994, Marquette University's Service Learning Program is a unit of the Center for Teaching and Learning. The focus of this collaborative learning style is to “bring campus and community together in partnership to share resources, meet real community needs, and help educate students to become the change agents of tomorrow.”

The addition of these volunteers will aid the MJC in assisting individuals for whom English is a second language. By providing services in Spanish, the MJC will be better able to understand and address clients' needs, while also being able to provide more accurate instruction to help them navigate the Courthouse processes.

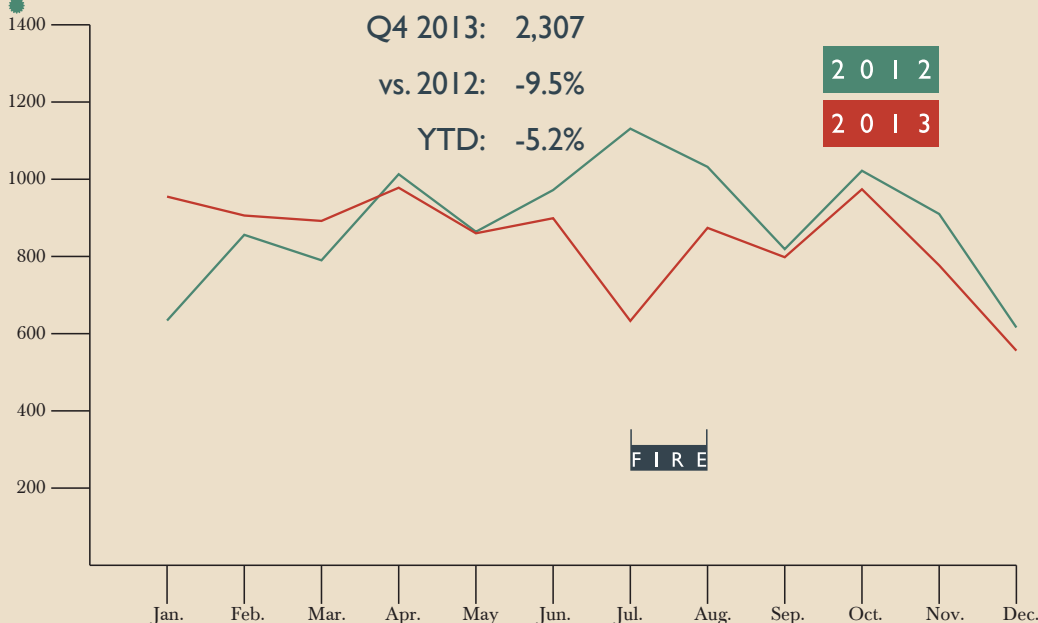
Q4 2013 a Glance...

Clients Seen

Q4 2013: 2,307

vs. 2012: -9.5%

YTD: -5.2%



Volunteer Spotlight: Dan Balk



Dan Balk, Marquette University Senior

Dan Balk isn't the kind of person many people expect to find in a volunteer legal clinic. The former, world-record deadlifter and Marquette senior, who is in the process of selecting a law school to attend next year, started with the MJC in the summer of 2013, and has been a regular volunteer since. In addition to the MJC, Dan is working for the Milwaukee County DA's office.

What brought you to the Milwaukee Justice Center?

The Milwaukee Justice Center is relevant to the career I hope to pursue. I believe in its mission as legal aid of any sort is difficult to come by.

I found out about the MJC from the internship listing at Marquette, and I was looking for a legal internship due to my career

goals. I figured if I was going to work for free, it might as well be for a good cause!

What's been rewarding about your experience at the MJC?

There's a lot of problem solving, which is something I enjoy. I find the work here to be very fulfilling. I like knowing I'm helping people through what would normally be a long and difficult process.

After my summer internship was up last year, I continued to volunteer at the MJC because the staff are friendly, positive, and dedicated to the mission of helping the public in Milwaukee.

I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to everyone at

By: Justin A. Metzger
the MJC for the positive experience and wisdom they have conveyed upon me throughout my time.

What's been the most challenging thing about volunteering at the MJC?

Sometimes you get clients of questionable stability, and they can test your patience. This has been a valuable learning experience, however, in working with people in other aspects of my life.

What has been your favorite experience so far at the MJC?

Having a client buy me a pizza because she was so happy I helped her through her divorce. She worked at a pizza place across town, and sent it to me at Real Chili, where I was working at the time. It was as unexpected as it was delicious!

What else should we know about you?

I am currently preparing for a powerlifting competition. It's kind of a backyard meet, but it's also helping a lot of others prepare for bigger meets.

When I was 17, I had a world-record deadlift of 552.1 pounds, but it was broken pretty quickly. I held it for 3 weeks, and by the time it happened, I had turned 18 and was no longer eligible for the record! ●

Tip of the Scale: Employment Discrimination and Brief Legal Advice

By: Julie Darnieder

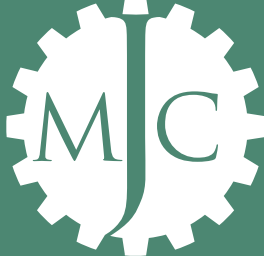
Due to the complexity of employment discrimination matters, involving both local, state and Federal laws, such questions are beyond the scope of the brief legal advice services that the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic provides. We can, however, provide you with these helpful resources to assist you with finding the help you may need.

Most employers with at least 15 employees are covered by the Federal Government under EEOC laws (20 employees in age discrimination cases). Most labor unions and employment agencies are also covered. The laws apply to all types of work situations, including hiring, firing, promotions, harassment, training, wages, and benefits.

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Division of Equal Rights aims to protect the rights of all people in Wisconsin under the civil rights and labor standards laws they administer.

For more detail, see Julie Darnieder's white paper at [this link](#).





Yolanda Toral-Zeider Helps MJC with Intake

Yolanda Toral-Zeider comes to the Milwaukee Justice Center by way of the Marquette University Law School, where she works with Pro Bono Director Angela Schultz and the Office of Public Service.

Yolanda has plenty of experience working in legal assistance, having also worked with the Restorative Justice Initiative under former WI Supreme Court Justice Janine Geske, and also as a Spanish Interpreter at the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic at

By: Justin A. Metzger

Hillview.

"What I like most is working with people and being able to help," Yolanda said. "And I love working with students."

A native of Veracruz, Mexico, she came to Milwaukee by way of Saudi Arabia, Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Tobago, and... Michigan. She landed here 19 years ago.

She lives here with her husband, and has two grown children living in Japan and Malaysia. ●

National Black Law Students Assn Visits MJC

By: Mary Ferwerda

In March, National Black Law Student Association (NBLSA) held their national conference in Milwaukee and the Milwaukee Justice Center was privileged to host conference attendees for a 1/2-day event at the Courthouse. Approximately 25 students from across the country met with Presiding Family Law Judge Maxine White, and heard from Family Judges

Carl Ashley, Frederick Rosa, and Marshall Murray.

The attendees assisted current volunteers in the Family Forms Self-Help desk, toured the Courthouse, and observed in Intake Court and Prelim. The attendees' feedback about this experience was very positive, as was the feedback from the Marquette Law student hosts. ●



Family Law Clinic Hours:

Monday - Wednesday
8:30am - 12:00pm
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Thursday - Friday
8:30am - 12:00pm

Brief Legal Advice Clinic Hours:

Thursday - Friday
2:00pm - 4:00pm

Family Legal Advice Clinic Hours:

Monday - Wednesday
1:30pm - 3:30pm

MJC Executive Director:

Dawn R. Caldart, J.D.

Attorney Supervisor

Mary Ferwerda, J.D.

Clerical Specialist:

Janelle Schmidt

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Thank you to all of our
volunteers and supporters!